



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

Date: November 18, 2011

RE: Update: School Meal Programs – Companies in Alleged Violation of FSIS Federal Inspection Requirements

Original Signed

The purpose of this policy memorandum is to inform sponsors regarding a potential issue with catering companies that serve schools participating in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (School Meals Programs).

Earlier this year, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) notified these companies which serve schools participating in the School Meal Programs that the companies' preparation of meat and poultry meals was not in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and/or Poultry Products Inspection Act and regulations. FSIS requested these companies take action to bring their operations into compliance within 180 days, at which point FSIS would begin follow-up investigations. FSIS has recently shared with Food Nutrition Services (FNS) how it plans to proceed with their follow-up investigations.

FSIS plans to verify whether the companies are contracted with the school(s) as a Food Service Management Company (FSMC). FSIS will close the investigative files where companies are able to verify they are a FSMC and where FSIS finds no violations. Information to verify status as an FSMC will be requested by FSIS from the companies and/or school food authorities.



If the company is not under contract as an FSMC, FSIS plans to increase and/or enhance food safety surveillance of that company by partnering with other Federal (e.g., the Food and Drug Administration), State or local regulatory or public health agencies. This increased surveillance is not expected to have an impact on the company's ability to continue to provide meals to schools, but will help assure a safe product.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about this situation or company compliance, please contact the Contracts Management Officer, Ellen Pimental at (602) 542-6208 or email her at Ellen.pimental@azed.gov. For questions regarding this memo, please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at (602) 542-8700.

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